

**Minutes of Healthcare Data Advisory Council**

May 3, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Suite 1586  
Alabama Department of  
Public Health  
The RSA Tower  
Montgomery, Alabama

**Members Present**

Mary McIntyre, M.D.; Acting Chairman, Chief Medical Officer  
Brenda Duncan; Alabama Hospital Association  
Keith Granger; Alabama Hospital Association  
Donald Jones; Alabama Hospital Association  
Donna Lawson; Business Council of Alabama  
William McCollum, M.D.; Medical Association of the State of Alabama  
Patty Miller; Alabama Hospital Association  
Alan M. Stamm, M.D.; Association for Professionals in Infection Control  
Susan Warren; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama

**Members Present by Phone**

Roslyn Jett; Alabama Hospital Association

**Members Absent**

Keith Cox; State Employees' Insurance Board  
Paul Graham; Business Council of Alabama  
Elliott Lipinsky; Governor's Consumer  
Michael O'Malley; Alabama Association of Health Plans  
Diane Scott; Public Education Employees' Health Insurance Plan

**Staff Present**

Kahlia Bell; Communicable Disease  
Sherri Davidson; Communicable Disease  
Thresa Dix; Center for Emergency Preparedness  
Alice Floyd; Center for Emergency Preparedness  
Leigh Ann Hixon; Communicable Disease

Tammy Langlois; Communicable Disease

Miriam Lee; Communicable Disease

Mary McIntyre; Disease Control & Prevention

Darryl Pendergrass; Bureau of Clinical Laboratories

Travis Redford; Communicable Disease

Allison Roebing; Communicable Disease

Carter Sims; Health Provider Standards

Kelly Stevens; Communicable Disease

**Organizations Present**

Rosemary Blackmon; Alabama Hospital Association

Margaret Borders; Alabama Hospital Association

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Healthcare Data Advisory Council was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Dr. McIntyre. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes from the December 2, 2015, June 29, 2016, and December 7, 2016, meetings were presented and approved unanimously.

**2016 ANNUAL HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS REPORT:**

The 2016 Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) 45-Day Review Data Report was presented by Travis Redford and Allison Roebing, HAI Co-Coordinators. Preliminary data for 2016 indicates that Alabama is performing better than national performance based on the 2008/2009 national baseline data in all four metrics: catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs), central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSIs), deep and organ-level colon surgical site infections (COLO SSIs), and deep and organ-level hysterectomy surgical site infections (HYST SSIs). One hospital performed worse than national performance in CAUTIs, and another was worse in COLO SSIs. All other hospitals performed similar or better compared to national performance, or they had too few device days or procedures for comparison. The HAI Co-Coordinators emphasized that the data in the 45-Day Review was subject to change as hospitals reviewed it and made corrections. The report will be distributed to hospitals in the

next week. Hospitals that appear to have data missing for particular months will be specifically addressed.

Council members emphasized the importance of explaining to the hospitals the baseline used in analysis since some may have switched to the newer 2015 baseline when internally analyzing their data. Additionally, members of the Alabama Hospital Association offered assistance in contacting hospitals when data appeared to be incorrect or missing if initial efforts were unsuccessful.

The Council requested a press conference and press release be scheduled when the annual report is approved to publish for public consumption.

#### **HAI FACILITY VALIDATION VISITS:**

Tammy Langlois described the selection process to review 2016 CLABSI and CAUTI data. CLABSI hospitals were selected using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) toolkit. Staff conducting validation visits are federally funded, and to meet required activities of the grant, the CDC tool kit must be used. Ms. Langlois explained that using the selection process outlined in the tool kit means that some hospitals that received visits during the previous two years will receive a visit again this year as well, based on their patient volume. Visits will be made to 22 hospitals for CLABSI validations

Additional hospitals were selected for validations of CAUTI data. Hospitals were selected specifically to target low and medium volume in diverse regions of Alabama. Visits will be made to 13 hospitals to conduct CAUTI validations. A council member expressed interest in following up with hospitals that performed worse compared to national baseline data in SSIs, and Ms. Langlois agreed to explore options.

#### **HEALTHCARE INFECTION CONTROL & PREVENTION (HICPREADINESS:**

Ms. Langlois and HIC&P staff continue to conduct Infection Control Assessment for Readiness (ICAR) surveys with healthcare facilities throughout the state. While visiting the hospitals, nursing homes, and dialysis centers for ICAR surveys is usually straightforward, Ms. Langlois expressed some difficulty arranging visits with assisted living facilities. It appears that some facilities fear punishment based on their responses, and as a result, they have requested to opt out of participation. Ms. Langlois recounted her educational efforts with the facilities to emphasize the non-punitive, cooperative goals of the survey. Council members suggested letters, mailings lists, and greater presence at meetings to better explain the purpose and goals of the survey.

**ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE & STEWARDSHIP**

On April 1, 2017, Leigh Ann Hixon was hired as the Nurse Manager to coordinate antimicrobial stewardship and antibiotic resistance activities in the state of Alabama. Over the summer, she will form and convene the Antibiotic Resistance and Antimicrobial Stewardship Work Group to identify target facilities for activities and discuss plans to assist with stewardship activities. In particular, upcoming projects will focus on long-term care facilities and hospitals. The Alabama Hospital Association expressed interest in working with the state to identify projects throughout Alabama and encourage cooperation rather than redundancy. Ms. Hixon has already been in contact with Teresa Fox of the Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation for this purpose, and more partners are welcome. In particular, she will be developing an Antimicrobial Stewardship Honor Roll to recognize facilities with strong programs in place to combat resistance.

Ms. Hixon will also be developing the Alabama Department of Public Health’s Antimicrobial Stewardship web page.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting of the Healthcare Data Advisory Council adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 2, 2017.

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mary McIntyre, M.D., Acting Chairman  
Healthcare Data Advisory Council